

INFO... JB-1 J5-1 SACS. SAMAA-1
SECDEF-7 ASD/ISA-5 DIA-10 CSA-2
CNO-2 CNO-3 FILE-1(39)

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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TDCS -314/00624-66

DISTR 11 JANUARY 1966

COUNTY
NO
NO

LAOS

AUGUST 1965 EXCEPT AS STATED

SUBJECT

PATHET LAO ACCOUNT OF SEEING
AMERICAN PILOTS IN CAPTIVITY IN HOUA PHAN
PROVINCE

NO
NO

LAOS, MIENTIANE (10 JANUARY 1966)

REF

N 31658

NO
NO
NO

1. SUMMARY:

PATHET LAO (PL)
CORPORAL [REDACTED] WHO WAS A TRUCK DRIVER FOR THE PL IN HOUA
PHAN (SAM NEUA) PROVINCE, SAID THAT HE SAW FOUR AMERICAN PILOTS
TAKING A BATH IN A STREAM NEAR A CAVE CALLED SADET (VH 199544).
19 KILOMETERS (KM) EAST SOUTHEAST OF SAM NEUA (VH 0158).
[REDACTED] SAID THAT FOLLOWING AIR RAIDS IN THE SAM NEUA AREA IN
APRIL 1965, THE PL HAD MOVED THEIR COMMAND POST TO THE CAVE AT
THAN SADET. [REDACTED] IDENTIFIED THE TOP COMMUNIST COMMANDERS
WHO OCCUPIED THE CAVE IN AUGUST 1965. COMMENT:

NO
NO

NAVY AIR JCS SECDEF NSA NIC AID

31 (S-47, 601/008-VH)

Lot#005 E6012-13

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Date 20 AUG 1979

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[REDACTED] TDCSDB-315/04026-65, AND [REDACTED] TDCSDB-315/04216-65,
REPORTED ON AMERICAN PILOTS IN CAPTIVITY IN THIS
GENERAL AREA AND ALSO INDICATED THAT THE PL HAD A HEADQUARTERS
1. A CAVE AT VH 195556.)

2. [REDACTED] PL CORPORAL [REDACTED]

SUPPLIED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A. ON 6 AUGUST HE SAW FOUR AMERICANS BATHING IN A STREAM
NEAR A CAVE CALLED THAM SADET. THE AMERICANS WERE PILOTS AND
WERE BEING HELD IN THAT CAVE. [REDACTED] WHO HAD DRIVEN SUPPLIES
TO THAM SADET ON 6 AUGUST, SAID THAT THE PILOTS APPEARED TO BE IN
FAIR PHYSICAL CONDITION. PL TROOPS GUARDING THE CAVE TOLD
[REDACTED] THE PILOTS WERE FED TWO MEALS A DAY AND WERE TREATED
THE SAME AS OTHER PRISONERS. THE PILOTS WORE PL TYPE KHAKI
UNIFORMS AND WERE NOT TIED OR OTHERWISE FETTERED. [REDACTED] DID
NOT SEE OR HEAR OF THE PILOTS AFTER 6 AUGUST.

B. FRIENDS OF [REDACTED] TOLD HIM THAT THE AMERICANS WERE
PILOTS OF JET AIRCRAFT THAT HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN NEAR THE FOLLOWING
PLACES:

(1) MARCH 1965 NEAR NUONG NGA (VH 1559), 14 KM EAST OF
SAM NEUA.

(2) MARCH 1965 NEAR BAN CHA KHIEN (VH 1158), 10 KM EAST
OF SAM NEUA.

(3) APRIL 1965 NEAR BAN TEN LUONG (VH 9311), 103 KM SOUTH-EAST OF SAM NEUA.

(4) MAY 1965 IN THE VICINITY OF VH 4148, 44 KM SOUTHEAST OF SAM NEUA.

COMMENT: [REDACTED] REPORTED THE 29 APRIL 1965 AND 19 MAY 1965 DOWNING AND CAPTURE OF TWO AMERICAN PILOTS IN THE BAN NA KAY TAY (VH 1955) AREA.)

C. VILLAGERS OF BAN NA THENE (VH 1669), 16 KM EAST OF SAM NEUA TOWN AND 6 KM NORTHWEST OF THAM SADET, TOLD [REDACTED] THAT ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE TWO PILOTS WERE PARADED THROUGH THEIR VILLAGE BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR, (THAO) MA. THE PRISONERS WERE NOT TIED AND WERE DESCRIBED TO THE VILLAGERS AS AMERICAN INFILTRATORS WHO HAD GIVEN AMERICAN BANKNOTES TO THE CHILDREN IN THE VILLAGE.

D. [REDACTED] DESCRIBED THE CAVE, THAM SADET, AS BEING APPROXIMATELY NINE METERS HIGH AND ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 150 PEOPLE. IN APRIL 1965, FOLLOWING AIR RAIDS IN THE SAM NEUA AREA, THE CAVE BECAME THE NEW PL MILITARY HEADQUARTERS FOR HOUA PHAN PROVINCE. IN AUGUST 1965 OCCUPANTS OF THE CAVE INCLUDED PRINCE SOUPHANOUANG, GENERAL KHAMTAY SIPHANDONE, GENERAL SITHON KOMMADAN, KAYSOME PHOMVIHAN, AND THREE CHINESE COMMUNIST WHO WERE DRESSED IN EITHER BLUE OR KHAKI UNIFORMS AND EITHER BLACK BOOTS OR KHAKI COLORED CANVAS SHOES. THE CHINESE DID NOT WEAR CAPS AND WERE ARMED WITH PISTOLS. FIFTEEN VIETNAMESE ADVISORS WERE ALSO IN

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THE CAVE. THEY WORE RED SHIRTS, BLACK PANTS AND BLUE CAPS.

APPROXIMATELY 150 PL SOLDIERS GUARDED THE CAVE. COMMENT:

PARAGRAPH SIX OF TDCS-314/12325-65, REPORTED SITHON KCMADAN,
ENTERING BAN NONG NOK (XC 5510) ON A RICE REQUISITION AND PROPAGANDA MISSION.

OTHER REPORTS FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE PL HEAD-
QUARTERS CAVE IS AT VH 194564; HOWEVER, THERE ARE SEVERAL
CAVES IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA AND IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR
TO PINPOINT THE CORRECT LOCATION ON A MAP AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS.)

3. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USAID CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF
ARPAC USMACV-SAIGON 2ND AIR DIVISION-SAIGON

END OF MESSAGE